

SUBJECT : PASICHNA Maria Vasylivna
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Chicago 22, Ill.

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DATE : 5 May 1963

1. Subject arrived by plane from MOSCOW at Idlewild, NEW YORK on 17 December 1962 coming from STANILAV (IVANO-FRANKIVSKYI), West Ukraine to join ^{for good} her daughter and son-in-law in CHICAGO, Ill. She is Ukrainian, aged 58, widow, assistant-cashier at the Tannery in BELVEDER-suburb of STANILAU from 1945- to 1960, since then till her departure to the States - retired on pension, primary-school-education, of average intelligence. Subject's knowledgeability is rather limited owing to her somewhat off-balanced psychological status: she is rather nervous and excitable. She is also still rather frightened suffering from some complex of Soviet all-mightness, or as she put it: "they told me that they have long hands and can reach me everywhere" and "I had to sign three papers in Moscow that I shan't talk politics". She didn't want to elaborate on the latter. Subject also stressed that her sister and some other relatives were still in the Ukraine, in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI.

2. Subject was interviewed on 30 Apr 1963 at her daughter's house in CHICAGO. The interview had to be made in a very "cautious" way in order not to arouse any "suspicion" on the part of Subject. It is assumed, however, that during eventual second interview it will be possible to get some additional data about IVANOFRANKIVSKYI and general situation there. This should be done only "on occasion" since general knowledgeability of Subject does not make mandatory a special trip to CHICAGO.

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B. 1. KGB and Militia -school in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI

Hqs of the KGB is located in CHKALOVA vulytsia in the same building which during German occupation housed Gestapo. According to what people talked, after Stalin's death many officials of the KGB were discharged and transferred to "civilian jobs" in administrative- and party-apparatus. The KGB was now less conspicuous but the population was still very much afraid of them.

The Militia-school is located in Stanislavskoyi Divizii -vulytsia. It is "always crowded" with militiamen. Among them were also local Ukrainians.

2. Cuban and anti-Cuban demonstrations in LVOV

During and after Cuban crisis in October-November 1962 there were organized mass-demonstrations in NOVOFRANKIVSKYI, LVOV and other cities. They were directed against the US-policy and went under the slogans: "Hands off from Cuba", and "Save peace".

In Nov 1962 people talked in NOVOFRANKIVSKYI that during one of such demonstration in LVOV in ~~same~~ month someone "changed" official slogans into anti-Soviet such as: "We want butter sent to Cuba", "Feed your own people first" and similar. In consequence the demonstration turned over into an anti-Cuban manifestation and militia had to disperse it. Some people were arrested and interrogated but none was punished.

At the outbreak of the Cuban crisis there was some panic and hoarding. But pretty soon it all calmed down. The outcome of the crisis was in general considered as a clever trick of KHRUSHCHEV who fooled President KENNEDY.

3. KHRUSHCHEV

Recently remarkably decreased Khrushchew's popularity despite his "saving the peace" during the Cuban crisis. Nobody believes anymore into his promises and people are talking about his troubles "inside". Nobody could specify what they were but in general it was understood that there had been some misunderstandings inside the Kremlin. Some people were also talking that Khrushchew himself was very good for the population but some of his advisers prevented him from getting "too good". Overwhelmingly preferred by all when compared to Stalin, he was still not very much liked among some Russian element in Western Ukraine. As an example Subject told a story that happened on the market in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI recently: wife of a high party official wanted to buy cream but the local peasant woman decided to sell it to someone else. The wife of the official got very angry but the only thing she could do was her comment: "Since Nikita came you've got much too good but let's hope this will change one day". Subject also heard people talking that when after Stalin's death Ukrainian was to be introduced in all schools and offices, many Russians complained about it and even openly protested making such remarks as "They are getting completely crazy in Moscow" or "Do they really expect me an old man to learn this khakhols-language".

The greatest popularity, however, among the population enjoys MALENKOV. People are still talking that it was him who made it easier for all of us.

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4. Anti-religious campaign

In 1962 increased remarkably anti-religious campaign. Lectures, public meeting, ^{local} press - were ^{all} engaged against religion. Most severely were attacked sects and catholics.

LUKIYANYCH

In Nov 1962 there was a public trial of Father ~~ANDRUSOV~~ a catholic Ukrainian priest, aged 65 together with his another priest, who were sentenced in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI-court by judge KAPITSKY, fnu to 5 years imprisonment for illegal contacts with the Vatican.

5. Anti-Jewish campaign

In 1962 the anti-Jewish drive was very strong and mostly conducted within the framework of attacks against speculation, embezzlements, and parasites of Soviet society. Big publicity was given to speculation-trials and Subject did not think that Jews met much sympathy among population.

There were also all kinds of rumours about Jewish "crimes" like, for example, that a Soviet officer wanted to buy a glass of soda at a Jewish stand in the street in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI but as the soda looked somewhat suspicious to him he asked the Jew to drink it first. The Jew refused and the officer took his soda to the laboratory. There it turned out that it entailed some chemicals very detrimental to human body.

6. General situation

There are many Russians and Eastern Ukrainians in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI. Immediately after the war Russians and Eastern Ukrainians kept very much together as against local Ukrainians. In recent years the situation much changed. There are more and more cases when Ukrainians from both parts of their country see more eye to eye with each other than with Russians. There was also very much of social mingling with each other and the division line ran more and more along nationalities lines.

The relaxation of the regime and improvement of living standard is tangible indeed, in comparison with Stalin's period. Still, people remain rather cautious in their expressions and are actually frightened of the KGB. There is sufficient supply of cloth, food, and other goods but on the other hand for last three years Subject had seen no butter in stores and only very rarely meat. Another snag: low wages and salaries. People have not enough money to buy what they need.

The most neglected section of the population, the real hard-core stratum - are pensioners. Majority of old people get not more than NRubel 10,- monthly pension. It is almost impossible to live on such a low dole.

In comparison with previous years, recently much improved the situation in the countryside. More and more collective farmers are seen on the market in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI selling mostly milk, vegetables, and other foodstuffs.

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7. Miscellaneous

Subject heard people talk that in Carpaty-mountains were "huge underground military stores" but she could not ~~give~~ say anything about their location. Also that sometimes on Sunday could be seen in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI soldiers of rocket-units but she did not know where they were stationed.

The Airport near IVANOFRANKIVSKYI was very much expanded after the war and was being used by both: civilian and military traffic. There were two flights to SKNYLIV (LVOV) daily: "in the morning and late afternoon".

Before Stalin's death all people wanted and waited for war. Since after Stalin's death life much improved and the vastness of eventual destructions in thermo-nuclear war had been realized, though still dissatisfied, more and more people hoped for some internal developments towards better future.

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